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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Oscar Lee Avant et al.

Serial No.: 09/652,709

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR  
IDENTIFYING AND PROCESSING  
MAIL USING AN IDENTIFICATION  
CODE

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) Group Art Unit: 3653  
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) Examiner: Daniel K. Schlak  
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Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In a restriction requirement dated November 27, 2001, the Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between five groups of claims, Group I containing claims 1-104, Group II containing claims 105-122, Group III containing claims 123-132, Group IV containing claims 133-148, and Group V containing claims 149-152. Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-104, characterized by the Examiner as drawn to mail sorting based on machine-readable markings.

Applicants submit herewith a Petition for One Month Extension of Time for responding to the Restriction Requirement with the requisite fee. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 18, 2002

By: *Lionel M. Lavenue*  
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